

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1, immediately after "Incorporation by Reference", as follows:

This is a continuation of copending Application Serial No. 10/160,450 filed on May 30, 2002, which in turn is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/735,332 filed on December 12, 2000, which in turn is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/409,497 filed on September 30, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,245,089, which in turn is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/943,358 filed on October 3, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,001,118, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 08/810,825 filed on March 6, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,814,064, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 08/813,794 filed on March 6, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,827,324.

~~This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application serial number 08/810,825 filed March 6, 1997 entitled DISTAL PROTECTION DEVICE, and assigned to the same assignee as the present invention.~~

~~The following co-pending patent application is hereby incorporated by reference U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/813,794, entitled DISTAL PROTECTION DEVICE which was filed on March 6, 1997, and assigned to the same assignee as the present application.~~